

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 02023 231502Z

45

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 074890

O 231410Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1585

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2023

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NO, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
SUBJ: SECVISIT: BRIEFING PAPER: EUROPEAN CO-PRODUCTION OF
F-16 AIRCRAFT

1. WITH ITS NEED FOR EFFECTIVE AIR POWER AND TRADITIONAL PREFERENCE FOR U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT, NORWAY WAS A NATURAL TO TAKE THE LEAD IN EUROPE, FIRST TO OPT FOR THE F-16 AS REPLACEMENT FOR AGING FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, AND SECOND, IN BRINGING THE DANES, DUTCH AND BELGIAMS INTO A FIVE-NATION CO-PRODUCTION CONSORTIUM WITH U.S. THE F-16 WILL NOT ONLY MODERNIZE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SECTOR OF NORWAY'S DEFENSE BUT PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL BENEFIT TO NORWEGIAN INDUSTRY THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN CO-PRODUCTION. NORWAY WILL BUY 72 AIRCRAFT.

2. ALTHOUGH NORWAY HAS NO AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, THIS COUNTRY IS PARTICULARLY STRONG ON THE ELECTRONICS SIDE AND THERE IS BROAD SUPPORT FOR NORWAY'S SHARE (17 PERCENT) OF THE TOTAL CO-PRODUCTION EFFORT, WHICH NORWEGIANS ESTIMATE IS WORTH 2.7 BILLION NKORNER (\$500 MILLION) FOR ENTIRE PROGRAM BASED ON PRODUCTION RUN OF 2,000 AIRCRAFT. LED BY THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED KONGSBERG WEAPON FACTORY, NORWAY WILL MANUFACTURE AND IMPORTANT PART OF THE ENGINE AND AVIONICS EQUIPMENT. NORWEGIAN INDUSTRY APPEARS TO BE AT LEAST AS COMPETITIVE AS THE INDUSTRIES OF THE OTHER EUROPEAN PARTICIPATING NATIONS AND THE FIRST MAJOR SUBCONTRACTS WILL PROBABLY BE CONCLUDED HERE BEFORE JULY.

3. AGGRESSIVE SEGMENTS OF NORWEGIAN INDUSTRY AND THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OSLO 02023 231502Z

GOVERNMENT ARE NOT CONVINCED THAT NORWAY IS RECEIVING ITS

FAIR SHARE OF CO-PRODUCTION WITH RESPECT TO AVIONICS SUPPORT
TEST EQUIPMENT AND ARE SEEKING TO NEGOTIATE WHAT THEY REGARD
AS AN IMBALANCE FAVORING OTHER CONSORTIUM PARTNERS.

4. AS SUCH INEVITABLE SQUABBLES AMONG CONSORTIUM MEMBERS
CROP UP, NORWAY RELIES HEAVILY ON THE UNITED STATES TO ACT
AS AN HONEST BROKER AND PROTECT NORWEGIAN INTERESTS.
REFLECTING THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS IN
THE MILITARY SPHERE, BOTH GOVERNMENT (USAF) AND PRIVATE
CONTRACTOR CONTACTS WITH NORWEGIANS IN THE F-16 PROGRAM HAVE BEEN
CANDID, WARM, AND PRODUCTIVE. THERE ARE NO INSOLUBLE PROBLEMS.

5. NORWAY WILL USE THE F-16 TO

A. MAINTAIN AIR SUPERIORITY OVER NORWEGIAN TERRITORY --
A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN NORWEGIAN DEFENSE PLANS, AND

B. IN AN ANTI-SHIPING ROLE TO COPE WITH ANY
SEABORNE INVASION THREAT.

AS CO-PRODUCTION PROCEEDS, NORWAY IS TURNING INCREASINGLY TO
ISSUES REVOLVING AROUND OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
F-16 AND ONCE AGAIN TAKING THE LEAD IN THE CONSORTIUM TO
BRING ABOUT A REALIZATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TACTICAL
OPERATIONS AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT ONCE THE AIRPLANES ARE
DELIVERED TO THE RESPECTIVE AIR FORCES.
BREMER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OSLO02023
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760154-0763
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760429/aaaaayjg.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECVISIT: BRIEFING PAPER: EUROPEAN CO-PRODUCTION OF F-16 AIRCRAFT
TAGS: OVIP, NO, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006